

Message Text

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ACTION CU-06

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FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7829
INFO USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS VALLETTA 1497

SECSTATE FOR EUR AND CU

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: TRAINING PROGRAM IN DRUG ENFORCEMENT

1. THE EMBASSY'S REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS FOR THE YOUTH LEADER AND SOCIAL WORKER PROGRAM OF THE COUNCIL OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM HAS RESULTED IN GOM DEPARTMENTS GETTING TOGETHER AND AGREEING TO SUBMIT JUST ONE NOMINATION WITH THEIR STRONG RECOMMENDATION THAT HE BE THE PERSON ACCEPTED BY THE EMBASSY AND CIP FOR THE PROGRAM BEGINNING APRIL 1978.

2. GOVERNMENT'S CANDIDATE IS INSPECTOR JOSEPH PSAILA, 29, A MEMBER OF THE MALTA POLICE FORCE SINCE 1969. PSAILA COMPLETED SECONDARY SCHOOL IN 1966, RECEIVING THE GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION AT "ORDINARY" LEVEL IN MATHEMATICS, ITALIAN AND MALTESE. HE RECEIVED TEN DAYS TRAINING IN NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT WITH THE ITALIAN POLICE IN ROME IN MID-1977. IN AUTUMN 1977 HE WAS RANKED FIRST IN THE EXAMINATION FOR PLICE INSPECTOR. THIS IS A DEMANDING EXAMINATION WITH ALL-DAY SESSIONS LASTING AN ENTIRE WEEK. PSAILA WAS THE FIRST PERSON EVER PROMOTED DIRECTLY FROM POLICE CONSTABLE TO INSPECTOR AND HE THEREBY SKIPPED OVER THE INTERMEDIATE GRADES OF POLICE SERGEANT AND POLICE SERGEANT MAJOR. HE IS PRESENTLY ATTACHED TO THE CONFIDENTIAL INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT (DETECTIVES). IN ADDITION
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TO HIS REGULAR DUTIES, HE HAS BEEN BUILDING A LIBRARY OF INFORMATION ON DRUG ENFORCEMENT AND TERRORISM. HE IS DESTINED TO BECOME HEAD OF A NEW VICE SQUAD, WHICH SHOULD BE SET UP IN 1978. PSAILA SPEAKS EXCELLENT ENGLISH AND HAS VISITED USIS AT LEAST THREE OR FOUR TIMES OVER THE PAST YEAR SEEKING INFORMATION ON DRUG ENFORCEMENT AND PROTECTION AGAINST TERRORISM IN THE UNITED STATES.

3. THE MALTESE GOVERNMENT REALIZES THAT THE CIP PROGRAM IN DRUGS WOULD DEAL MUCH MORE WITH REHABILITATION THEN WITH ENFORCEMENT, BUT JUSTIFY THEIR STRONG SUPPORT OF PSAILA ON THE GROUNDS THAT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL AND "HUMANIZING" FOR MALTA'S POLICE TO HAVE THE EXPOSURE TO SUCH A SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM.

4. THE EMBASSY'S IMPRESSION IS THAT SINCE CIP IS A SOCIAL WORK RATHER THAN A POLICE PROGRAM, PSAILA WOULD NOT BE AN APPROPRIATE CANDIDATE. THE EMBASSY, THEREFORE, PROPOSES TO ASK THE GOM FOR NOMINATIONS IN THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD AND THEN CONSIDER THESE ALONG WITH A SMALL NUMBER OF EXCELLENT APPLICATIONS FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR WHICH HAVE ALREADY BEEN RECEIVED.

5. THE POST BELIEVES, HOWEVER, THAT PSAILA WOULD BE AN EXCELLENT CANDIDATE FOR A POLICE-TYPE PROGRAM IN DRUG ENFORCEMENT IN THE UNITED STATES. DRUG ENFORCEMENT IS A MATTER TO WHICH THE GOM IS ATTACHING INCREASING IMPORTANCE AND IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO MALTA AND TO AMERICAN INTERESTS IN MALTA IF PSAILA COULD BE SENT ON SUCH A PROGRAM IN THE UNITED STATES.

6. SINCE THE EMBASSY HAS IN THE PAST YEAR HAD DIFFICULTY IN GETTING MALTESE POLITICAL LEADERS TO ACCEPT IVP GRANTS, WE ARE ALL THE MORE ANXIOUS TO BE RESPONSIVE TO A REQUEST FOR AN EDUCATIONAL VISIT WHICH DOES HAVE THE BLESSING OF MALTA'S
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CURRENT POLITICAL LEADERSHIP.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: WE WOULD APPRECIATE A PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT OF POSSIBILITIES FOR AN APPROPRIATE PROGRAM FOR PSAILA BY JANUARY 10. WEL WILL SUBMIT CANDIDATE FOR CIP PROGRAM ASAP.
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Decaption Note:
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